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Claims 1-17 have been canceled. Applicants add new claims 24-35. Claims 18-35 are now pending in the application. Applicants amend claims 18-23 for clarification, and add claims 24-35 to round out the scope of the claimed invention. Applicants refer to Figs. 4 and 7, and their corresponding description in specification for exemplary embodiments of and support for the claimed invention. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge the receipt of all certified copies of the priority documents for this application in parent application No. 08/880,723. Applicants also request that the Examiner indicate acceptance of the drawings.

Claims 18-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,710,774 to Suh et al. Applicants amend the claims in a good faith effort to clarify the invention as distinguished from the cited reference, and respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Examiner maintained the claim rejection by referring to the multiplexer 61 illustrated in Fig. 2A of Suh et al. as alleged disclosure of the claimed serializing feature. Applicants respectfully point out that X1 and X2 are mere comparison signals, and that Suh et al. only describe selecting between these comparison signals that each compares a byte of data from the serial/parallel converter 10 to an A1 frame alignment byte and an A2 alignment byte, respectively. As such, comparison signals X1 and X2 only indicate comparison results and do not carry parallel data. Suh et al., therefore, at most, describe selecting comparison result signals one after another and directly outputting the selected comparison signal to detecting circuit 90. And Suh et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, do not disclose the features of identifying and holding a region of the parallel data in which a frame synchronous pattern is

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presumably included as provisional region data, and serializing and detecting the frame synchronous pattern in this provisional region data.

In other words, Suh et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, fail to disclose,

"[a] frame synchronous pattern detection apparatus, for detecting an actual frame synchronous pattern which is a part of a frame synchronous pattern and is essential to execute frame synchronizing, comprising:

- (a) a provisional-region detection section; and
- (b) a frame synchronous pattern detecting section,

said provisional-region detection section being for:

sampling parallel data according to a synchronous digital hierarchy (SDH) transmission system,

identifying and holding a region of the parallel data in which said actual frame synchronous pattern is presumably included as provisional region data, and

serializing and outputting the provisional region data to said frame synchronous pattern detecting section,

said frame synchronous pattern detecting section, communicatively connected with said provisional-region detection section, being for detecting said actual frame synchronous pattern from the inputted provisional region data," as recited in claim 18.

(Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 18, together with claims 24-25 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Suh et al. for at least the foregoing reasons. Claims 19-23 incorporate features that correspond to those of claim 18 cited above, and are, therefore, together with claims 26-35 dependent therefrom, respectively, patentable over Suh et al. for at least the same reasons.

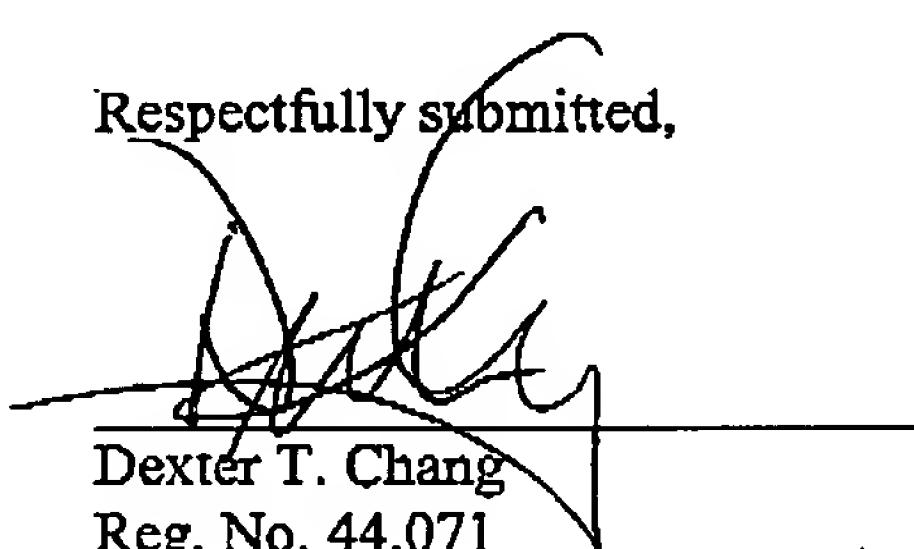
The above statements on the disclosure in the cited reference represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney. The Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically indicate those portions of the reference that provide the basis for a view contrary to any of the above-stated opinions.

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In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action. Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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Docket No.: FUJS 14.330A (100794-00171)

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